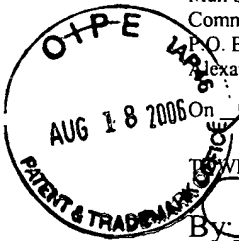


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 16869S-094000US
Client Ref. No.: W1153-01EJ



On August 16, 2006
By Mustafa M. Kherkhemie
TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

HIDEOMI IDEI et al.

Application No.: 10/656,096

Filed: September 5, 2003

For: MANAGEMENT SERVER FOR
ASSIGNING STORAGE AREAS TO
SERVER, STORAGE APPARATUS
SYSTEM AND PROGRAM

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 9922

Examiner: Brian J. Gillis

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2141

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 16, 2006, please enter the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 9 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.